(54)

P880061-0787

United States Senate

May 2, 1983

ACTION

I am writing in regard to a reference in the August, 1982 bulletin of the Department of State which stated that [illegible] does not endorse allegations that the [illegible] committed a genocide against the Armenian [illegible] reference has caused extreme concern among the [illegible] in my home State of Rhode Island.

[illegible] the willful massacre of 1.5 million Armenians [illegible] government during World War I is clearly within [illegible] of "genocide". It is also my understanding [illegible] United States government has traditionally taken [illegible] that the Turkish government set out to exterminate [illegible] Armenians.

I would deeply appreciate it if you would provide me with a clarification of the Department's position on this important issue.

With every good wish,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTOMATED CRITICAL TRACKING SYSTEM

REMITTED BY J.M. Crowe 11/20/85

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TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

2 May 1983

D M Cramer 11/20/85

The Hon. Lawrence Eagleburger
Assistant Secretary for European Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Eagleburger:

A news item in San Francisco Chronicle, 23 April 1983, states that because of pressure from Armenian-Americans, you have advised Rep. Charles Pashayan, R., California, that the State Department wants to end the "unfortunate controversy" and that the publication "that offended many Armenian-Americans will contain a clarifying statement." Perhaps this new item is not, in fact, correct, but if it is, we find it most alarming. It is to be hoped you indeed review history in depth at the highest levels before issuing a clarifying statement. That certain Armenians insist that the tragedies of the early 20th century were the result of a planned genocide by the defunct Ottoman Empire does not make it so.

It is difficult to believe that political pressure on our State Department could force it into a "retraction" of the word "allegations." In other words, our State Department would accept certain Armenians' buzz word "Genocide" as a synonym for the Departation Order, issued in 1915 in the Ottoman government, moving Armenians from the war front areas - where Armenian guerillas were collaborating with Russia, attacking Ottoman armies from the rear - to an area away from the fighting. No one disputes that the deportation order did result in tragedies and loss of life, but that does not equate with "planned genocide." Should the State Department bow to this pressure, hereafter, of course, we will see anti-Turkish proclamations stating that documentation of an Armenian Genocide is proven by a U.S. State Department bulletin of 1983.

We are also gravely concerned that elected members of Congress, themselves not historians, have accepted Armenian allegations as fact. This appears to us as an impediment to their ability to promote and protect U.S. interests as they relate to Turkey. The involvement of such members in pressuring the State Department to make a "retraction" seems exceedingly inappropriate and not in the best interest of U.S. security needs.

Distortion of historical events has been the propaganda technique of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnags) - founded in Russia - and the other Armenian terrorist organizations for at least 80 years. Unfortunately, many American-Armenians, exposed only to the propagandists' myth, believe it, as well as the propagandists' current theme that today's Turkish government "denies anything happened", a flagrant lie cleverly designed to heighten emotion, indignation, and hate towards Turkey today.

Disinterested scholars of history, whether Turkish, Armenian, French, English or American, do not minimize the fact that the Armenians suffered tragedy, loss of life, massacres and atrocities. Importantly, neither do they minimize that the Turks, too, suffered tragedy, loss of life, massacres and atrocities at the hands of the Armenians, which the propagandists carefully conceal, although some Armenian historians do not. The Turks' third generation are not being taught to "avenge" the deaths of their grandparents. Rather, they feel the same sorrow and compassion for the tragedies of innocent Armenians as they do for those innocent Turks. However, they resent and reject the attempt to be cast as villains.

Our State Department must be aware of the correlation between Russian goals and Armenian demands. It can be traced from the late 19th century, when Russian intrigue incited the Turkish-Armenians to treasonable activities, with their disastrous consequences, to today. For example: In the 40's, as Russia demanded from Turkey its provinces of Kars and Ardahan, simultaneously the Armenian Revolutionary Federation in the United States mounted a huge drive calling for an "Armenian Homeland" in those same provinces. The Truman Doctrine was the result of that Russian caper.

The wave of terrorism inside Turkey in the 70's (with Soviet financing) coincided with the beginning in 1973 of a campaign of terror by Armenian terrorist groups against Turkish diplomats all over the world, as well as against governments who arrested the few terrorists who have been apprehended. Paul B. Henze, formerly senior staff member of the National Security Council, points out that "these persistent atrocities are irrational, except as manifestations of the larger Soviet effort to destabilize Turkey. The Armenian terrorist groups regard Soviet Armenia as already liberated and aim to 'liberate' several Turkish provinces to add to the Soviet Union." This stragedy to get "official" recognition from the United States of a "Genocide" is not innocent. They claim it will establish "legal" grounds to bring the modern Turkish state to a "Nuremburg" trial and result in their receiving Turkish land as compensation. How nice for Russia?

The militant Armenian propaganda also attempts to assert that the only contradiction of their version of history comes from the Turkish government, and that the Turkish government is "revising" history. The enclosed extract from an article in 1924, by John Dewey, noted American educator and philosopher, in The New Republic, Vol. 40, "The Turkish Tragedy", makes it quite clear it is these militant Armenians who are attempting the revision. Mr. Dewey's article could almost have been written today, 60 years later. Please read it carefully.

We shall be happy to provide you with additional information to assist you in determining what a correct "clarifying" statement should be.

Sincerely yours,

Bonnie Joy Kaslan

Bonnie Joy Kaslan
President

BJK/mh

Enclosure

cc: President Ronald Reagan
Vice-President George H. Bush
George P. Shultz, Secretary of State
John Hughes
Edward J. Derwinski
Charles H. Percy
Howard H. Baker
Christopher J. Dodd
Edward Zorinsky
Paul E. Tsongas
Clement J. Zablocki
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Lee H. Hamilton
Jim Leach
Frank Annunzio
Matthew Martinez
Henry Waxman

Extract from "The Turkish Tragedy," in The New Republic, Vol. 40, 1924, by John Dewey (1859-1952), noted American educator and philosopher.

"The tragedy in Turkey is more extensive than the sad plight of minorities. Those who refrain from a premature partisanship are likely soon to (conclude) that all parties are so much to blame that the question of assigning responsibility is at most one of quantities and proportions.

It is a tradegy with only victims. There are villains...muffled figures appearing...upon the stage only for fleeting glimpses. They are the Great Powers, among which it is surely not invidious to select Russia and Great Britain by name...Unbidden the thought comes to mind; happy the minority which has had no Christian nation to protect it. And one recalls that the Jews took up their abode in "fanatic" Turkey when they were expelled from Europe, especially Spain, by saintly Christians, and they have lived there for some centuries in at least as much tranquility and liberty as their fellow Turkish subjects, all being exposed alike to the rapacity of their common rulers. To one brought up, as most Americans have been, the Gladstonian and foreign-missionary tradition, the condition of the Jews in Turkey (flourishing) is almost a mathematical demonstration that religious differences have had an influence in the tragedy of Turkey only as they are combined with aspirations for a political separation which every nation in the world would have treated as treasonable.

Unfortunately the end is not yet...and the accompanying misery of peoples at least temporarily homeless...as numerous among the Turks as among the Armenians and Greeks, even if our Christian benevolence, still under the influence of foreign political propaganda, does not hear so much about or experience the same solicitude for Turkish woes.

Few Americans who mourn, and justly, the miseries of the Armenians, are aware that till the rise of nationalistic ambitions, beginning withe the 'seventies, the Armenians were the favored portion of the population of Turkey, or that in the Great War, they traitorously turned Turkish cities over to the Russian invader; that they boasted of having raised an army of one hundred and fifty thousand men to fight a civil war, and that they burned at least a hundred Turkish villages and exterminated their population.

Extract from "The Turkish Tragedy," in The New Republic, Vol. 40, 1924, by John Dewey (1859-1952), noted American educator and philosopher.

Nothing but evil to all parties has come in the past or will come in the future from the attempts of foreign nations to utilize the national aspirations of minority populations in order to advance their own political interests, while they then conceal and justify their villainous courses by appeal to religion. After all the Turks are here; ...there is a wide territory in which they form an undisputed majority; for centuries the land has been their own.

It is time that Americans ceased to be deceived by propaganda in behalf of policies which...bring death and destruction impartially to all elements, and which are nauseating precisely in the degree that they are smeared over with sentiments alleged to be derived from religion."

(56)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY 4 1983

Dear [illegible]:

[illegible] to the Secretary of April 14 [illegible] policy on issues raised in the [illegible] on Armenian terrorism.

[illegible] the accompanying note, not [illegible] of policy of the United States. [illegible] any change in US policy. Policy [illegible] part of the public record remains there [illegible].

[illegible] the Administration remains deeply [illegible] efforts of such terrorist groups [illegible], of 1915 as a pretext for terrorism [illegible] and private and public activities [illegible] the world. The United States [illegible] strongly all such acts of terror.

[illegible] State plans to publish the following [illegible] next issue of the Department of State [illegible]

'Armenian Terrorism: A Profile', which [illegible] August 1982 issue of the Bulletin, and its [illegible] and footnotes were not intended as statements [illegible] the United States. Nor did they represent any [illegible] policy.

[illegible] sincerely desire to end the unfortunate controversy over [illegible] article. I hope that this clarification will [illegible] any concerns you may have.

[illegible] regards.

10/20/83

Sincerely,

Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Robert G. Torricelli,
House of Representatives.

(57)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 5, 1983

Dear [illegible]:

Thank you for your letter of April 5 concerning State Department policy on issues raised in the Bulletin article on Armenian terrorism.

Neither the article, its accompanying note, nor footnotes were intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in US policy. Policy statements which are a part of the public record remain there [illegible] for themselves.

As you can understand, the Administration remains deeply concerned over the concerted efforts of some terrorist groups to exploit the tragic events of 1915 as a pretext for terrorist attacks on Turkish diplomats and private and public activities of Americans and Turks around the world. The United States unequivocally condemns most strongly all such acts of terror.

The Department of State plans to publish the following statement as a note in the next issue of the Department of State Bulletin:

"The article, 'Armenian Terrorism: A Profile', which appeared in the August 1982 issue of the Bulletin, and its accompanying note and footnotes were not intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in US policy."

We sincerely desire to end the unfortunate controversy over the Bulletin article. I hope that this clarification will alleviate any concerns you may have.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

4/20/83

Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Les Aspin,
House of Representatives.

P830075-1973

May 18, 1983

Mr. Eagleburger:

This copy of my letter to the Editor of The Armenian Reporter is for your information.

My family and I lived through the massacres. My father was taken through a field where a massacre had occured and the men were looking for gold in the teeth of the victims. The victims were women and children. The men had been hung or sent to road gangs, as my father had been, to be killed. Almost all of my relatives on both sides of my family were slaughtered. I can go on and on.

As for the reference to the French as "pigs", it is a statement made to my father by a Turkish leader in Kemal Pasha's inner circle.

This attempt to falsify history is so uncalled for, so crude and so cruel. And it is so contrary to all that America is and stands for. I am going to fight it because I owe it to America, to my people who perished and to history to do so.

Sincerely,

Arthur F. Dadian

Arthur F. Dadian
1846 16th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

cc: Congressman Charles Pashayan, Jr.
The Armenian Reporter
To others as may be necessary
Armenian Mirror-Spectator
enc. Copy of my letter to the Armenian Reporter.
Copy of the article as it appeared in the Armenian Reporter.

D.M. Crane 11/20/85

P830075-1974

1846 16th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009
May 12, 1983

The Editor
The Armenian Reporter
P. O. Box 488
Flushing, N.Y. 11352

Dear Sir:

On the first page of your April 28th issue you state in bold letters: "State Department Finally Chooses to Retract Note Referring to Massacres as 'Alleged.'" The text that follows in support of that headline contains no such retraction. It merely says that the State Department policy toward Turkey has not been changed, whatever that means.

But the issue is a plain and a simple one, an established fact of history, and has nothing to do with our foreign policy toward Turkey. The statement made in the State Department Bulletin is the kind of mistake which is handled routinely by any respectable publication. An error is made, it is brought to the attention of the editor, and a correction is routinely printed in the next issue.

The Department of State further confuses the issue by treating it as an Armenian problem. On the contrary, it is an American problem and a very serious one. It has to do with the reputation of America as a decent country and a reliable ally.

The impression I get from all this is that the people in our State Department who make our foreign policy toward Turkey lack the necessary knowledge and competence to do their jobs properly. It seems to me that they think that to have Turkey as a reliable ally we must sacrifice our decency and integrity. They should know that the French did just that in their dealings with Turkey after World War I and all they got in return was the contempt and hatred of the Turks. The Turks began referring to them as "pigs"--a term of the utmost contempt.

We must not let these people do this to our country, our America that we love so dearly. We must start by bringing this matter to the attention of our President and the Chairmen of the Foreign Relations Committees of the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

Yours truly,

Arthur H. Dadian

cc: Congressman Charles Pashayan, Jr.
Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger
Armenian Mirror-Spectator

Mr. Arthur Sheiman
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20060

ALL THE NEWS WORTH REPORTING

THE ARMENIAN
REPORTER
New York's Independent Armenian Newsweekly
America's Leading Armenian Newspaper

ALL THE NEWS ABOUT ARMENIANS

VOL. XVI, NO. 28 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1983

Mailing Address P.O.Box 488, Flushing, N.Y. 11352
Tel (212) 998-7400

Martyrs' Day Marked Throughout the World
Turks Stage Counter Demonstration in New York

NEW YORK, N.Y.—On the most solemn day for the Armenian people - the anniversary of the Turkish massacres of Armenians - close to 2,000 New York area Turks and others from cities as far away as Florida took to the streets of New York City to mount a major protest against Armenian terrorism and against Armenian Distortion of History. And judging from both number of participants and the character of the public demonstration the Turks appeared to capture, at least partially the spirit of that practice that has been exercised by Armenians over the years - stage public demonstrations to expose to the world the sufferings and the injustices committed against the Armenian people in World War I.

Ironically a public rally called by the Armenian National Committee, the political arm of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, was held at about the same time and only blocks away from the site where the Turks assembled. This Armenian demonstration turned out to be a poorly organized and poorly attended public outpouring of Armenian grievances. According to police officers assigned to the Armenian rally held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., no more than 350 were present to hear a host of speakers calling for Turkish recognition of Armenian rights and decrying the deportation and the massacre of close to 1,500,000 Armenians.

The Turkish demonstration, clearly well organized, planned and coordinated began moving south on Fifth Avenue starting from 62nd Street and traversed the busy avenue filled with Saturday shoppers. Displaying placards and banners the demonstration was led by a group of Turkish youths holding high the photographs of the Turkish diplomats and members of their families who had been killed by Armenian terrorists. Placards called for the end of terrorism and one of them called on the Armenian Church to join Turks in condemning terror.

Accompanied by a strong contingent of New York City Police, some on foot and some mounted, the demonstrators bore left on 48th Street and proceeded to Lexington Avenue, where they continued their march south to 42nd Street. Crossing the street, they [illegible] at the southwestern corner of First Avenue and 42nd Steet where for over an hour they heard leaders and Moslem clergy decry Armenian violance and call on the civilized world to stop this bloodshed.

As they assembled at the demonstration site, the Armenian rally, held four blocks to the north, came to an end, with participants dispersing from the scene. Only a handful of Armenians ventured to approach the Turks to witness their outcry against terrorism.

The only incident that marred the peaceful character of the Turkish demonstration was an intrusion by an Armenian woman. Ms. Arakie Kalayjian said to be under psychiatric care. She was roughed up as she moved to the center of the crowd of Turks, openly provoking them. Police managed to save Ms. Kalayjian from the rage of the throng and escorted her safely away.

A few Armenian youths taunted the demonstrators by driving adjacent to the demonstration site on First Avenue. However, there were no incidents because they sped by in their cars and the Turks had no opportunity to react.

Reaction to the Turkish demonstration appeared to be mixed as pedestrians and passersby were overheard commenting that Turks do not recognize the Armenian Genocide and this is why there is Armenian terrorism. Perhaps the most amusing comment heard about the demonstration was made by a doorman stationed at the front door of St. Regis Hotel on East 55th Street. He suggested to an irate motorist stuck in traffic while Fifth Avenue was temporarily closed that the Turks were protesting against something. "I guess they're not happy that the turkeys we eat here are named after their country, Turkey."

Continued on page 20

Gov. & Mrs. George Deukmejian are shown at the Martyrs' Day commemoration held in Montebello, Calif.

Two Armenians Among Group Accused of Assassinating President B. Gemayel

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Two Armenians are included in the list of six Lebanese nationals who were earlier in the week turned over to the Lebanese Army by the Christian Phalangist party and are accused of masterminding and executing the assassination of Mr. Bashir Gemayel, the brother of President Amin Gemayel, who was killed soon after his election as president.

Phalangist sources identified the alleged murderer of the President as Habib Shertouni, who they said was responsible for the huge explosion that destroyed the Phalange headquarters as the newly-elected President was meeting with aides. Two of the others have confessed to the murder of Gemayel's 18-month-old daughter in 1980, while three others, including one Khoren Vartanian, were charged with planting the explosives in Christian East Beirut that ended up with the killing of President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

One of the two persons accused of the killing the infant daughter is Joseph Kazazian. All the six, including the two Armenians, were turned over to the Lebanese military although no one seems to know why they had been kept in detention for more than seven months by the Phalangists.

According to the Phalange radio, Shertouni has been a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist party since 1977 and, based on confessions, the plan to assassinate Mr. Gemayel was made one month before the explosion and a senior official of the party talked Shertouni into planting the explosive. In that incident, in addition to President-elect Gemayel, 20 others were killed, and this took place only nine days before the president's inauguration. The Phalange radio said Mr. Shertouni was familiar with the building housing the Phalangist headquarters inasmuch as his grandfather had once owned it. They said he planted the bomb two days before the incident. He was quoted as telling his interrogators that he detonated the explosive from a vacant lot situated in the Al Nasrah area by means of a highly sophisticated Japanese detonator.

The radio also claimed that Shertouni was formerly involved with Syrian intelligence and the Palestine Liberation Organization's intelligence apparatus. It said he was also connected with international terrorist groups.

No information was provided about the Armenians who were arrested and turned over to the Lebanese Army. A quick disposition of the case by the Lebanese is expected.

State Department Finally Chooses to Retract Note Referring to Massacres as "Alleged"

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Speaking to the U.S. House of Representatives during that body's commemoration of Armenian Martyrs' Day on April 21, Representative Charles Pashayan Jr., advised that the Department of State has retracted the Note denying the Armenian Genocide which appeared at the end of an article entitled "Armenian Terrorism, A Profile" in the August, 1982, issue of the **State Department Bulletin.**

Lawrence **Eagleburger**, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in an April 21 letter to Congressman Pashayan that State Department officials "sincerely desire to end this unfortunate controversy over the **Bulletin** article." He further advised that the following editor's note will appear in the next issue of the **Bulletin**.

The article "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile," which appeared in the August 1982 issue of the **Bulletin**, its accompanying note and footnotes were not intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in U.S. policy.

Acknowledging Congressman Pashayan's critical role in this and other matters of concern to Armenian-Americans, Eagleburger opened his letter by saying: "I especially respect the prominent leadership role you exercise in the Armenian-American community and am consequently pleased to write to you..."

Eagleburger continued:

May I reemphasize to you that neither the article, its accompanying note, nor footnotes were intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in U.S. policy. Policy statements which are a part of the public record remains there and speak for themselves.

The Armenian Assembly has been actively involved in pursuing a resolution to this unfortuente incident which even the Department of State terms a "public affairs disastar." In cooperation with other Armenian-American organizations, the Assembly for the past several months has given priority to securing a retraction of the August Note which stated:

Because the historical record of the 1915 events in Asia Minor is ambiguous the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish government committed a genocide against the Armenian people.

In January a delegation of Armenian Americans including Hrair Hovnanian, Nubar

Continued on page 3

HOW OTHERS SEE US Armenian Memory, Turkish Amnesia

By Karl E. Meyer

The following is from the New York Times op-ed page. It comments on a recent Op-Ed column on Saturday, April 23, by a Times staff editorial staff.

The saddest date on the Armenian calendar is April 24, when a scattered people remembers a catastrophe most of us have forgotten. It happened in 1915, when a large and thriving Armenian community in Turkey became the subject of the century's first official genocide.

It was a gruesome campaign, resulting in the death or deportation of perhaps 1.5 million of 2.3 million Turkish Armenians. Yet the perpetrators faced no judicial inquiry, no ministers resigned in disgrace and subsequent Turkish Governments have declined even to acknowledge what happened.

This amnesia in no way justifies a minuscule group of Armenian terrorists who in a decade have killed 26 Turkish diplomats. But it surely justifies using the memorial day as less vengeful Armenians ask with increasing urgency to call for an accounting of a dark and unpunished crime.

A stateless people, Armenians were vulnerably located on both sides of the Eastern Front when World War I pitted Germany and the Ottoman Empire against Czarist Russia, Britain and France. Islamic Turkey looked on Christian Armenians as collectively suspect—even according to one theorist, an alien impurity.

"Alas, those who were innocent today might be guilty tomorrow," explained Turkey's Interior Minister, who ordered the deportation of entire communities and condoned plunder and murder by Turkish troops beginning in April 1915.

The killings appalled German diplomats, who had no motive for exaggeration. Their dismay was shared by the American envoy, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., who left eyewitness accounts to foreign journalists. The weight of the evidence makes credible an Ottoman document dated Sept. 16, 1915, asserting that the regime's purpose was to destroy completely all the Armenians living in Turkey.

As shocking as what happened was what didn't. Much of the world protested, but with little effect and with numbed incredulity. An account of a ferocious killing on the shores of Lake Van prompted this meditation in The New Republic: "Humanity refuses to think that a civilized nation was even fractionally responsible for such desolation."

In that refusal, Franz Werfel foresaw other horrors. His powerful novel, The Forty Days of Musa Dagh, describes a meeting between Turkey's Defense Minister, Enver Pasha, and a German pastor. Suppose Germany had enemies in its midst, said Enver, shall we say, Poles or Social Democrats or Jews. Would you consider it so cruel if, for the sake of victory, all dangerous elements in the population were simply herded together and sent packing into distant uninhabited territory? There can be no peace between human beings and plague germs."

Werfel, a Czech-German Jew, was writing in 1933. He later fled Germany and died in America in 1945, when what began in Anatolia had produced Auschwitz.

HOW OTHERS SEE US — Recalling Armenian Atrocity

By J. Martin Bailey

The following commentary appeared in the April issue of the United Presbyterian A.D. *Magazine under the title "Recalling Armenian Atrocity" and was written by the magazine's editor.*

Armenians are a small but significant ethnic community within both the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church. Their presence among us dates back to the late 1800's when Presbyterians and Congregationalists worked together in the Middle East and elsewhere through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. When many Armenians fled what became a genocide of their people in Eastern Turkey, it was natural for them to relate to the churches they had known through the missionaries. Each year, on April 24, these congregations and other Armenian people in this country commemorate Armenian Martyrs Day to recall the tragedy of their people.

Though many Americans protested the brutal treatment of Armenians in the years 1915-1922, and massive relief assistance was provided, our nation, intent first on staying out of war and then preoccupied with the flames of Europe, failed to support President Wilson's hopes for an Armenian Republic. There is evidence that the world's indecisiveness at that time encouraged Hitler to launch a decade later the holocaust in which millions of Jews lost their lives.

The lesson is clear. No part of the world is immune to atrocity—from Afghanistan and Assam to Central America, from Lebanon to the Philippines and South Africa. Apathy and silence from peoples and governments have a way of returning to dominate our lives. The memory of Armenian, Jewish and other martyrs is best served by strong ecumenical and international efforts on behalf of justice and human rights.

State Dept. Retracts Note Questioning the Massacres

Continued from page 1

Dorian, Aram Kaloosdian, Set Momjian, and Harry Sachaklian met with John Hughes, Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs at the State Department, Ed Derwinski, State Department Council, and other State Department officials. This meeting typified the ongoing dialogue between the Department of State and the Armenian-American community which led ultimately to a mutually satisfactory retraction of the State Department's denial of the Armenian Gencide but which leaves open the matter of affirmation of this tragic event in Armenian history.

Congressman Pashayan in announcing that the State Department had written to him to correct what he termed a "bureaucretic blunder," stated that the new editor's note would constitute an unambiguous retraction. "It is a clear statement that the Department of State is not changing U.S. policy. It is a clear statement that they did not intend to change policy, and that they are referring to U.S. policy that already exists on the Armenian question."

Congressman Pashayan expressed his deep appreciation to the many individuals who urged the State Department to retract its Note. "I was hardly working alone," he said. "Numerous of my colleagues sent letters to the Department. I should like to thank especially my colleague, the Honorable Henry Waxman, my leader the Honorable Robert Michel, and, of course, our Speaker, the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., for their special cooperation. All have supported the Armenian position in the past and continue to be fervent friends."

The State Department's retraction was made possible through the concerted efforts of scores of Congressmen and Senators who wrote to the Secretary of State George M. Shultz to express their concern and dissatisfaction with the Note and with subsequent explanations conveyed to them in response to their inquiries. As reported in the Assembly's Spring, 1983, **Special Supplement**, House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill's strong concern and interest in this matter was particularly instrumental in effecting a resolution. Members of the House and Senate who wrote to the State Department on this matter include Senators Jesse Helms, Carl Levin, and William Proxmire, and Representatives Joseph Addabbo, Glenn Anderson, Frank Annunzio, Les Aspin, Michael Barnes, Philly Burton, Tony Coelho, Bobbi Fiedler, James Florio, Barney Frank, Bill Green, James Howard, Matty Martinez, Nicholas Mavroules, Robert Michel, John Moakley, Carlos Moorhead, Robert Roe, Henry Waxman and Clement Zablocki.

While the Department of State has solved in part the controversy created by its action, it is the Assembly's intent to seek a statement of policy in accord with President Reagan's Proclamation 4838 which recognizes the fact of the Armenian Genocide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Armenian Reporter welcomes all Letters to the Editor. We reserve the right to print letters at our discretion, but the opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff. If requested, the author's name will be withheld. However, The Reporter will not print any letters received without a signature. Due to limited space, preference will be given to shorter letters.

LET'S EXAMINE OUR PRIORITIES

Dear Sir,

As a second generation Armenian who has been living primarily among the goyars the past 30 years and out of touch with the Armenian community, it was a joy for me to have the opportunity to attend a Panel Discussion by intellectual Armenians at St. John's Church in Southfield, Mich. on April 8.

The young intellectuals on the panel were obviously highly educated, highly motivated, very sincere and their dedication and love for their people and their yearning to have a homeland for the generations of Armenians to come was very inspiring.

The evening's discussion, however, was to me bittersweet. Please, let us move beyond intellectualism and into wisdom.

Does the Armenian identity about which we are so concerned depend on ownership of a piece of land in the Middle East? Is that piece of land more important than the integrity and non-violent nature of the Armenian people? If we participate in or condone the assassination of fellow human beings who happen to be born of Turkish parents, are we not lowering ourselves to the level of those who participated in the genocide? Do we want our children and grandchildren to have a legacy of shame for our violent actions? Do we not believe in Jesus Christ when He told us "I give you life everlasting"? Do we not believe that our ancestors lost their physical bodies only in the massacre, but not their souls? Do we really want to make a mockery out of our history as the first nation to accept Christianity, and deny the reality of the Easter resurrection? Our Lord did come back from the sepulchre and did appear to his Apostles and many others. It is not just a fairy tale. It is the Truth. There is life beyond the grave.

I cannot believe our ancestors would approve of our reverting to the pre-Christian ethics of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. What profiteth a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?

If you ask where is my Armenia then if I do not feel my people must have a country a piece of land at all costs I will tell you. My Armenia and Armenianism entity are in the heart of my pride of the sweetness and gentleness and goodness and spirituality of my people. Can't we have our little Armenian communities all over the face of the earth if necessary and live in such a way as to be an inspiration to all people? Live with loving and forgiving hearts with pride in our heritage.

Let us excel in the arts, literature, science, sports, business and as educators, but let us not get entangled in a web of hatred and lust for revenge, power, glory or land, a web that will violate our integrity and decency.

If we must have a country, let us achieve that goal in the same manner Mahatma Gandhi achieved it for India, the way Medgar Evers achieved his goal of equal rights for his people in America. Let our children and grandchildren be proud of our achievements because they were gained honorable, decently and non-violently.

Name withheld by request

THE PITY OF THE JERUSALEM CRISIS

Deer Sir,

While away for a time from our principal residence, we did not have a chance to read the Reporter's informative and courageous articles concerning the shameful tragedy that surrounds the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate.

As concerned Armenians, we want to voice our indignation at the manner in which the Jerusalem Patriarchate is desecrating our most sacred treasures and even more, desecrating the memory of our illustrious, saintly church fathers, St. Sahag, St. Mesrop, Ghevont, Yeretz Nerses Shnorhali, Naregatzi and others. The list is endless.

Our aim is not to recall the history, rather to join in with Dr. Levon K. Topouzian to say: "Hey Vakht" and lament with the words of the father of our history Movses Khorenatzi: "I pity you Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the splendor of your sanctuary has been tarnished by an unworthy, degenerate shepherd and your flock has been cast to wolves... who will come to your

Almine Seryan

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